

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 04777 211931Z

43

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 211624Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3855

S E C R E T LISBON 4777

NODIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: AZORES INDEPENDENCE

REF: STATE 194642

1. MET PRIVATELY TODAY WITH MOTA AMARAL. TOLD HIM I HAD RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS AND WISHED TO CONVEY TO HIM USG POSITION THAT WE WERE OPPOSED TO ANY AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT ACTION THAT MIGHT UNDERMINE EFFORTS OF MODERATE FORCES ON THE MAINLAND.

2. MOTA AMARAL SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION FULLY. HE PERSONALLY AGREED THAT MELO ANTUNES SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE, AND WOULD SO ARGUE WITH THE FLA. HOWEVER FLA HAD ACQUIRED A MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN. FLA WAS ARGUING THAT THEY HAD TO MOVE QUICKLY BEFORE VASCO GONCALVES WAS REMOVED IN ORDER TO GAIN MAXIMUM SYMPATHY THROUGHOUT WESTERN WORLD.

3. I REVIEWED WITH MOTA AMARAL THE COMPLICATIONS THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM SUCH A PREMATURE MOVE. HE AGREED AND AGAIN SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THIS VIEW TO FLA LEADERS. HE HOPED HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PERSUADE THEM TO GIVE MELO ANTUNES A WEEK OR SO TO GET INTO OFFICE. HIS EFFORTS WOULD BE COMPLICATED, HE NOTED, BY A GENERAL FEELING THAT MELO ANTUNES--DESPITE HIS AZOREAN WIFE--IS NOT VIEWED AS ONE WHO WOULD BE POTENTIALLY

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RESPONSIVE TO LEGITIMATE AZOREAN DEMANDS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, AZORES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, LIBERATION FRONTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON04777
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850107-1490, N750003-0335
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750832/aaaabbkg.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 194642
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AZORES INDEPENDENCE
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, US, PO, FLA, (AMARAL, MOTA), (ANTUNES, MILO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006